Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 STR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /109 W

-----055150 211814Z/14

R 191304Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9350 INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS CAIRO 13256

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EG, FR SUBJ: COFAS CREDIT

REF: CAIRO 13015

- 1. FRENCH EMBASSY OUTLINED TO EMBOFF MAY 18 DETAILS OF FOOD SUPPLY AGREEMENT WHICH WAS NEGOTIATED WITH GOE THIS WEEK (REFTEL). ACCORDING SOURCE, PACKAGE CALLS FOR FRENCH TO PROVIDE 300,000 MT OF WHEAT FLOUR, 250,000 MT OF REFINED SUGAR AND 50,000 MT OF EDIBLE OIL. SMALLER AMOUNTS OF BEEF AND POULTRY ALSO WILL BE SOLD TO EGYPT UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. CONTRACT TOTALS FF 700 MILLION AND CREDIT IS EXTENDED FOR TWO YEARS AT 7.5 PER CENT. PROGRAM BILLED AS STANDARD COFAS COMMODITY PROPOSAL AND IS IN LINE WITH PREVIOUS SALES, ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBASSY FINANCIAL OFFICER.
- 2. IN DISCUSSION SAME DAY WITH GOE MINSUPPLY OFFICIAL, AGATT WAS INFORMED THAT FRENCH-GOE AGREEMENT INVOLVED SOLELY COFAS CREDIT OF FF 700 MILLION. ACCORDING GOE OFFICIAL, EGYPT IS ELIGIBLE TO UTILIZE FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF ANY FRENCH-SOURCE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY, WITH NO UNCLASSIFIED

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RESTRICTIONS OR LIMITATIONS AS TO QUANTITIES OR ITEMS TO BE PROVIDED.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN "CLARIFICATIONS" OUTLINED ABOVE, BELIEVE OUR PRELIMINARY ASSUMPTION EXPRESSED REFTEL SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY THAT FRENCH MIGHT TAKE UP SLACK IN EGYPTIAN WHEAT REQUIREMENT NOT WARRANTED, AFTER ALL.

CALCULATING MAXIMUM SUPPLY OF FLOUR IN TERMS OF RAW WHEAT, WE ESTIMATE THAT EGYPT MAY STILL NEED ADDITIONAL ONE MILLION TONS (MORE OR LESS) TO MAKE IT THROUGH 1978 COMFORTABLY. MATTHEWS

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CREDIT, AGREEMENTS, FOOD ASSISTANCE

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